

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NDJAME 01832 081433Z

42

ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 AF-05 ISO-00 SSO-00 IO-09 SCI-01 PC-04 USIE-00

INR-10 INRE-00 DODE-00 AGR-03 INT-01 COME-00 SWF-02

FDRE-00 EB-05 IGA-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SPM-01 /104 W

----- 041134

O R 081140Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

TO AMEMBASSY COTONOU IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 8238

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY ROME

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AFDROUGHT

ROME FOR FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: MAIDUGURI BOTTLENECK

1. WE ARE NOW AWAITING GOC PROPOSAL FOR SOLUTION MAIDUGURI-NDJAMENA TRANSPORT PROBLEM AND HAVE SUGGESTED TO GOC THAT REMAINING GRAIN IN NIGERIA FOR CHAD PROGRAM BE DIVERTED TO NIGER UNTIL BACKLOG AT MAIDUGURI IS REDUCED. A CONDITION FOR OUR PROPOSAL IS THAT ALL GRAIN SO DIVERTED BE RESTORED TO CHAD PROGRAM BEFORE END OF NIGER PROGRAM. WE PREFER RESTORATION FROM ANY SHIPS ARRIVING NIGERIAN PORTS LATE AUGUST.

2. QUESTION OF INCENTIVES DID NOT ARISE, BECAUSE MINISTER OF PLAN TOOK LEAD IN CONTENTION THAT PRESENT RATE OF CFAF 5700 PER TON IS SUFFICIENT. SOCOPAO REP JUSSAUME WHO IS ATTENDING COTONOU CONFERENCE HAS LONG BEEN MOST DETERMINED OPPONENT ANY INCREASE IN CTT RATE AND HAS REMAINED PERPETUAL OPTIMIST ABOUT AVAILABILITY NIGERIAN TRUCKS WITHIN THIS RATE TO HELP SOLVE

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PAGE 02 NDJAME 01832 081433Z

MAIDUGURI PROBLEM. HIS OPTIMISM HAS NOT BEEN JUSTIFIED.

PREVIOUS UNSATISFACTORY RATE OF 50 TONS PER DAY HAS FALLEN
EVEN LOWER NOW THAT RAINS HAVE BEGUN. COTONOU SESSION IS
PROBABLY BEST PLACE TO RAISE POSSIBILITY OF INCENTIVES TO BOTH CTT
AND NIGERIAN TRUCKERS. IN DOING SO, HOWEVER, US REPS SHOULD
RECALL THAT RATE APPLICABLE TO COMMERCIAL CUSTOMERS FOR SIMILAR
GOODS IS STILL 5700, AND USG SHOULD NOT LIGHTLY ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY
TO PAY HIGHER RATES THAN THOSE CHARGED CTT'S REGULAR CUSTOMERS.
US REPS SHOULD ALSO KEEP IN MIND THAT WE MUST BE CAREFUL NOT TO
OFFER NIGERIAN TRUCKERS HIGHER RATE THAN WE DO FOR CTT. IF
MAIDUGURI-N'DJAMENA RATE IS TO GO UP IT SHOULD DO SO FOR ALL
CUSTOMERS AND ALL TRUCKERS.

DECON 7/8/75.

NEHER

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30 JUN 2005

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